
MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR

PRESS RELEASE

BUCHAREST, DECEMBER 10 , 2012

The electoral process for the Romanian Parliament was legal and transparent, without major incidents

The 60,000 employees of the Ministry of Administration and Interior took action during the vote day in order to ensure a democratic and legal electoral process even if the weather conditions have hampered public access to polling stations.

Despite the weather conditions, the turnout seems to be more significant now compared with the elections in 2008, according to the official estimates.

Ministry of Administration and Interior succeeded in accomplishing its mission with transparency and professionalism. Periodically, the Ministry informed the public opinion through the mass - media regarding the situation in the country and also the electoral process.

The Ministry of Administration and Interior had also ensured the proper transportation of vote papers to the County Election Offices and the Central Electoral Commission.

BUCHAREST, DECEMBER 9, 2012

Elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Romania - 16.00 hrs

Since the beginning of the voting process, between 07.00 and 17.00 hrs, through the National Reporting and Monitoring System 370 notification of possible infringements of the electoral legislation have been recorded.

Out of the total number of the incidents reported today, 183 took place in the urban area, while 187 in the rural area.

By 17.00 hrs 41 minor offences were identified and sanctioned, the fines applied amounting to 17,600 lei; the counties of Dambovită and Gorj recorded the highest number of minor offences. At the same time, investigations are being conducted in 35 presumably criminal offences, out of which 17 are related to bribery.

For the proper development of the parliamentary elections, the Ministry of Administration and Interior, through its Directorate for Persons' Record and Database Management (DEPABD), has taken this week the necessary actions so that those people who do not have valid documents could get their identity cards.

The departments of persons' record all over the country are open even today, until 21.00 hrs. At the level of the Directorate for Persons' Record and Database Management and its territorial units, at national level, 13,738 ID documents have been issued (1,303 in Bucharest and 12,435 in the other counties).

The situation of the ID documents issued today is as follows:

- 12,936 ID cards out of which
 - o in Bucharest (including DEPABD) – 1,157
 - o at the level of the other counties – 11,779
- 802 temporary ID documents, out of which
 - o in Bucharest (including DEPABD) – 146
 - o at the level of the other counties – 656

By 17.00 hrs, 32 gendarmes have voted today, out of the 45 gendarmes present in a training mission in Afghanistan, under the co-ordination of NATO.

BUCHAREST, DECEMBER 9, 2012

Elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Romania - 12.00 hrs

Main issues addressed during the press statement delivered by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI) superintendent of police Monica Dajbog, 12.00 hrs.

Between 07.00 and 11.00 hrs, through the National Reporting and Monitoring System 66 notification were recorded.

Out of the total number of incidents, 37 events took place in the urban area, while 29 in the rural area.

The most of these incidents took place in Bucharest (12) and in Buzau and Olt (11 in each of them).

Two minor offences were identified and sanctioned, the fines applied amounting to 1,500 lei, and investigations are being conducted in two presumably criminal offences.

A videoconference with the prefects on the severe weather conditions and on the development of the voting process is scheduled at the MAI venue at 15.00 hrs.

The Elections Day - 8.00 hrs

On Sunday, December 09, 2012, Secretary of State for the Relation with Parliament and Government Bogdan Tohaneanu delivered a press statement on the way the voting process started.

You can find below some of his statements:

I want to assure you that the parliamentary elections are organized in full compliance with the law. We will not accept any violation of the law, as we did not tolerate any violation of the legislation during the election campaign.

- *The Ministry of Administration and Interior and the Government have taken all the necessary technical measures so that the voting process could be developed lawfully;*
- *Everybody has to be aware of the fact that the law provides sanctions for any infringement of the electoral legislation. If there are people willing to try to break the law, my advice is to give it a second thought. They have to seriously think about it: is it worth risking their liberty for some more votes in favour of somebody? We are determined to enforce the law whenever necessary.*
- *The National and County Command Centres for Severe Weather are activated and functional 24/7. In the videoconference held yesterday, the minister for interior Mircea Dusa requested that the local administration and the Road Traffic Police clear the roads so that the people could reach their respective polling sections. At the same time, actions have been taken to provide electric power to all the polling places, so that the voting process could properly be developed. The relevant units of the Ministry of Administration and Interior are permanently monitoring and taking actions for duly tackling the situation.*
- *The Minister for Administration and Interior called for the support of the army in helping with intervention equipment, if the operational situation requires it.*
- *The minister also requested that the equipment belonging to Craiova Regional Centre be sent to Caras and Mehedinti.*

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI) superintendent of police Monica Dajbog presented the situation of the events recorded during the election campaign, as follows:

At this moment, we can confirm the fact that the voting process started in almost all the polling stations.

Out of a total of 18,456 polling sections set up across the country, only 14 could not start the voting process at 7.00 hrs, as scheduled: 1 polling section in Alba County, 2 polling sections in Arad County, 3 – in Bacau County, 1 – in Brasov, 5 – in Buzau and 2 in Arges.

*We remind you that at nation level there were established 18,456 polling stations, out of which 6,306 in municipalities, 1,739 in cities and 10,411 in villages.
In Bucharest there are 1,239 polling stations.*

Since yesterday afternoon, the employees of the Ministry of Administration and Interior have been ensuring security at the polling stations.

Thus, 33,000 employees of the Ministry of Administration and Interior are carrying out guarding missions at all the polling stations across the country.

At the level of every county, an operational command centre was activated, which co-ordinates all the territorial missions of the MAI units so as to ensure quick respond and intervention whenever an elections-related incident or infringement of the legislation is reported.

Moreover, in every county teams of officers from the central unit of the Romanian Police are monitoring the responsiveness and the organisation of territorial forces already established, so that the investigation in the cases notified could be duly carried out.

At the same time, here, at the MAI headquarters, the Operational Command Centre is activated, monitoring the overall development of the public order and safety activities today, in the parliamentary elections day.

At the level of this Operational Command Centre an application was implemented allowing all the elections-related events to be introduced and centralised, by the means of which even the solutions reached in every case can be monitored.

Now, I'll refer to some recent aspects recorded on Saturday, 08 December, after the election campaign has ended:

From 08 December 2012, 07.00 hrs, to 09 December 2012, 07.00 hrs, 128 notifications were registered on possible violations of the law. There were identified 50 minor offenses and investigations are carried out in 20 cases of reportedly criminal offences, out of which 7 refer to bribery.

I'll underline now some technical aspects of the voting process development, as stipulated by Law No 35/2008:

The Romanians who are over 18 years old have the right to vote, including those who are 18 on the elections day. The mentally disabled, as well as the prisoners deprived from their voting right by final court decisions are forbidden to vote.

The citizens can only vote at the polling station to which the street or the locality where they have their residence belongs.

The Romanians who have their residence in a foreign country can vote at a polling station in their respective country.

According to the law, inside and around the polling stations – up to 500 metres around – the chief officer of the polling section has to take all the necessary actions so that the elections could properly develop.

For preserving order, the chief officer of each polling section is provided with all the necessary public order tools, ensured by the mayor, the prefect, as well as by the representatives of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

Excepting for the polling officers, candidates, delegates and the observers with an accreditation, no persons are allowed to stay in the public area around the polling place or inside the polling booth more than the necessary.

Only the polling chief officer can take action so that a voter would not stay in the polling booth more than necessary without any serious reason.

The presence of any other person inside the polling booth, together with the voter, is forbidden.

Any person who refuses to obey the decisions made by the president of the electoral bureau of the polling station on ensuring order in the polling place or area is sanctioned, having to pay a fine amounting from 1,500 to 4,500 lei.

During the elections day, the election campaign is also forbidden, and so is trying to persuade the voters, inside the polling sections, to vote or not vote for a particular candidate. All these aspects are within the province of the president of the electoral bureau of the polling station.

Law No 35/2008 on the parliamentary elections provides some criminal offences - punished through prison sentences from 6 months to 7 years, as follows:

- Preventing somebody from voting or being elected (imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years);*
- The breach of the voting privacy by the polling officers or by any other person (imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years);*
- Promising/ offering money or goods for persuading someone to vote or not vote for a particular electoral competitor or candidate, as well as receiving money or goods by voters for the same purpose (imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years);*
- If someone votes without having the right to vote, or if someone votes more than once on the elections day (imprisonment from 6 months to 5 years);*
- Using a counterfeit ballot paper, introducing more ballot papers in the ballot box than the legal number of ballots a voter has the right to, or counterfeiting the electoral documents at the electoral bureaux (imprisonment from 2 to 7 years).*

We remind you that over 50,000 police, gendarmes, border police, employees of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and other relevant institutions are carrying out missions meant to ensure the development of the elections in full compliance with the law.

If someone learns about possible violations of the electoral legislation are kindly asked to call 112 or to inform the nearest police station about that particular situation.

BUCHAREST, DECEMBER 8, 2012

MAI activated the Operational Command Centre

Two days before the Parliamentary elections, the Operational Command Centre of MAI was activated with all its components.

The Operational Command Centre of MAI (COC) co-ordinates the missions of all the operative structures responsible for maintaining public order and safety during the Parliamentary elections.

Here, the relevant data and information received from all over the country on the situation of public order and safety is centralised, and sent in real time to all the decision-makers of the ministry and the other structures.

Thus, during this elections campaign have been recorded 923 possible infringements of the law; most of them referred to the electoral posters. There have not been recorded serious incidents.

During the four-week election campaign, there were identified 357 offences, having been applied fines amounting to over 188,600 lei. At the same time, investigations are conducted in 351 cases of reportedly criminal activities, out of which 75 are related to bribery.

The number of the offences and crimes recorded during the election campaign for the Parliamentary elections are three times fewer than those recorded during the election campaign for local elections which took place in the spring of 2012, when 953 offences and 1,108 crimes were identified.

The Operational Command Centre plays a role of utmost importance, especially in special situations or when the units of the Ministry of Administration and Interior participate in very important missions, such as the one of ensuring appropriate organisation and development of elections, in full compliance with the law.

BUCHAREST, DECEMBER 8, 2012

Measures to be taken before the Parliamentary elections

On Saturday, 08 December 2012, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, has taken place a video-conference of the MAI decision-makers with the prefects and the representatives of the other institutions with responsibilities not only in the proper tackling of the problems caused by the weather conditions these days, but also in the appropriate organisation of the Parliamentary elections.

As the representatives of the Romanian Meteorological Authority sent a severe weather warning, the Minister of Administration and Interior Mircea Dusa underlined that it is necessary that all the actions meant to ensure the proper and duly intervention for clearing the snow be taken at national level, but especially in those particular counties where severe weather conditions has been

announced, as the local authorities are provided with all the necessary equipment and antiskid materials.

The minister's request referred to the intervention on the national and county roads, so that the Romanian citizens could reach their respective polling stations.

In this context, the Road Traffic Police will be ready for quick intervention these days, carrying out missions with approximately 2,800 police agents at national level.

For the next two days, the national command and dispatching centres which were set up at the level of the relevant state institutions – Ministries of Transportation, Public Health, Environment and Economy – will stay activated, ensuring quick reaction round the clock. Likewise, the prefects and sub-prefects were imperatively ordered by Minister-Delegate for Administration, Mr Radu Stroe, to ensure reactive intervention at the headquarters of the prefect's institutions.

As for the organisation of the elections, minister Mircea Dusa has stated that during this election campaign - which ended this morning - no serious incidents were recorded, that they are much fewer than those recorded at the local elections, appreciating the MAI representatives' action as totally equidistant.